IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

Abstract

Dates stored in symbolic form in a database are reformatted to permit easy

5   manipulation and sorting of date-related information. Each date in M_1M_2, D_1D_2, and Y_1Y_2 format is converted to C_1C_2, Y_1Y_2, M_1M_2, and D_1D_2 format. To accomplish the conversion, a 10-decade window starting on Y_AY_B is defined that encompasses all dates in the database. The value of C_1C_2 is determined by the relative values of Y_1Y_2 and Y_AY_B. The reformatted date information is particularly

10   useful when the reformatting is in $C_1C_2Y_1Y_2M_1M_2D_1D_2$ format, because sorting by date is accomplished using a pure numerical-value sort.

Please amend the Specification by adding the following to the end of the Specification:

Exhibit A

15   !   - -Century Conversion - -

!   Bruce Dickens   Apr 04, 1996

!

!

10   open structure toos:name 'otms_src_dir:tools'

20   open #2 : name 'last_inv.dat', access output

print "   Tools 'Last Inventory Data Format' Check for 1996 Inventory"

print "Tool No   "; " Model No   "; "   LAST_INV "; "LAST INV

"

print "======   "; " =======   "; "   ======== "; "========

25   print "Extract Data:"

print #2: "ToolNo   "; "   Model No "; " LAST_INV   ";

"LAST_INV"

print #2: "===== "; "   ======== "; " ========   ";

"========"

30   print #2: "Extract Data"

```
20      extract structure tools

        yy$ = lpad$  (element$ (tools (last_inv),3,"/"), 2, "0")

        mm$ = lpad$  (element$ (tools (last_inv),1,"/"), 2, "0")

5       dd$ = lpad$  (element$ (tools (last_inv),2,"/"), 2, "0")

        cc$= yy$ + "/" + mm$ + dd$

        c1$ = change$ (cc$, '/', '')

        if c1$[1:2] , '50' then

          c$ = '20' + c1$

10      else

          c$= '19' + c1$

        end if

!       include c$ , '19960101'

          sort by tools(model)

15        sort by rpad$(c$,8, '0')

!       if c$[1:8] , '19960101' then

        print tools(toolno) ; tab (23); tools(model); &

                        tab(35); toos(last_inv); tab(44); c$

        print #2:   tools(toolno) ; tab (23); tools(model); &

20                      tab(35); toos(last_inv); tab(44); c$

          if valid  ( c1$, "digits" ) = 0 then

          print; tab(53); " Date format is not digits"

          print #2: ;tab(53); " Date format is not digits"

          end if

25  !     if valid  ( c1$, "minlength 6" ) = 0 then

    !     print; tab(50); " Date format is short"

    !     print #2: ;tab(50); " Date format is short"

    !     end if

          if tools(last_inv) = "" then

30        print; tab(53); " Date format is blank"

          print #2: ;tab(53); " Date format is blank"
```